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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/017,827 | 12/07/2001 | Timothy W. Brooks | 1067-272 | 5024 |

7590 02/17/2004

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EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/017,827

Applicant(s)

TIMOTHY BROOKS

Examiner

Brigitte R. Hammond

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 20,21,23-26 and 30 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7,8,10,12 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,6,9,11,13-19,29,31 and 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,7,8,10,12 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis et al. Regarding claims 1 and 12 , Davis et al disclose a connector pair comprising: an over-molded connector 66, comprising: at least one first terminal at 80 having a first terminal sex; at least one wire (not shown) respectively coupled for electrical communication with each of said at least one terminals; and an overmolded body 70, having an overmolded connector terminal end, an overmolded connector wire end and an overmolded connector outer surface, said overmolded body at least partially encasing said at least one terminal and said at least one wire; a hardshell shroud 68 having a first connector sex, said hardshell shroud comprising: a substantially rigid shroud body having a shroud terminal end 72, a shroud wire end 76, and shroud inner and outer surfaces; wherein said overmolded connector is contained within said hardshell shroud; a hardshell connector housing 12 having a second connector sex, said hardshell connector housing comprising: at least one second terminal 14 having a second terminal sex; a substantially rigid connector body having inner surface 52 and outer surfaces (not numbered); wherein said hardshell shroud 68 may be interengaged

with said hardshell connector 12, such that said at least one first terminal 80 engages respective ones of said at least one second terminal 16.

Regarding claims 7,8 and 28, Davis et al. disclose the shroud 66 and the connector body having an asymmetrical polarizing shape (as shown in figs. 7 and 1 respectively).

Regarding claim 10, Davis et al. disclose the shroud having a latching feature 110.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20, 21,23-26 and 30 are allowed.

Claims 2,3,6, 9,11,13-19, 29, 31 and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed November 6, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that the Davis reference does not teach overmolding *directly over the wire*", the Examiner replies that applicant's claim recites an "overmolded body at least partially encasing said at least one terminal and said at least one wire", which is disclosed by Davis. In response to applicant's other argument's the examiner agrees with applicant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-

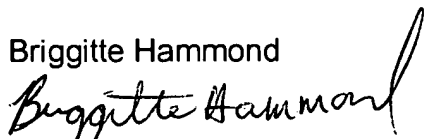
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272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Brigitte Hammond

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brigitte Hammond". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

February 9, 2004